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**--POLYNUCLEOTIDES ENCODING A 6-PHOSPHOGLUCONOLACTONASE
POLYPEPTIDE FROM *CORYNEBACTERIUM GLUTAMICUM*--**

Please replace the title at page 69, line 1, with the following re-written title:

**--POLYNUCLEOTIDES ENCODING A 6-PHOSPHOGLUCONOLACTONASE
POLYPEPTIDE FROM *CORYNEBACTERIUM GLUTAMICUM*--**

Please replace the abstract beginning at page 69, line 6, with the following re-written abstract:

Isolated nucleic acid molecules, designated sugar metabolism and oxidative phosphorylation (SMP) nucleic acid molecules, which encode novel SMP proteins from *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, are described. The invention also provides antisense nucleic acid molecules, recombinant expression vectors containing SMP nucleic acid molecules, and host cells into which the expression vectors have been introduced. The invention still further provides isolated SMP proteins, mutated SMP proteins, fusion proteins, antigenic peptides and methods for the improvement of production of a desired compound from *C. glutamicum* based on genetic engineering of SMP genes in this organism.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 18-24, 30, 35, and 38 without prejudice, and amend claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 25, 29, 34, and 36-37 as follows:

1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof.

4. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.